

F. Witter
U.S. Serial No. 09/832,393
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Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for collection of blood comprising:
positioning a body portion, from which blood is to be withdrawn, within a shield member such that the shield member is generally disposed between the body portion and a hand of a user, the shield member having a planar bottom portion without any downwardly extending portions at ends thereof;

stabilizing the body portion within the shield member solely using a digit of the user's hand; and

inserting an insertion member of a blood extraction device into the body portion such that the shield member is generally disposed between the insertion member and the user's hand.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising holding the shield member in one hand of the user while accomplishing said inserting using another hand of the user.

Claims 3-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a wherein the shield member, one portion of which is configured to be held in said one hand, the shield member including another portion of which is configured and arranged to receive the body portion.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein the another portion of the provided shield member includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the shield member, in which is received the body portion.